(Copy given to Father Henry)

St. Hedwige Parishioners, recognizing the need for a more suitable place of worship than the one presently used, on October 14, 1951, at a general meeting of the parish, formed a New Church Building Fund Committee for the purpose of collecting funds to build a new church as a memorial to their faith and the faith of their children. The committee elected at this meeting is as follows:

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John B. Puchala, honorary president; Rev. Henry A. Ustaszewski, moderator; Stanley Gorski, president; Stanley Szopa, 1st vice president; Helen Pieton, 2nd vice president; Anthony Debski, secretary; Adele Wojnilowicz, Matilda Bykowski, assistant secretaries; Alexander Majewski, treasurer; John Malik, sergeant-at-arms; Mary Stefanik, Casimir Waszeciak, Joseph Hendzel, James Peltak, Anna Kalinska, Frank Fudala, Emelia Olesniewicz, board of directors; Frank Dudziak, John Chmielewski, Adele Wojnilowicz, auditors.

The response to the work of the committee has been most gratifying. It has imbued the committee with renewed vigor and ardent zeal to see their work brought to a successful end. At the last meeting, a Special Gifts Committee headed by Att. Joseph Betley, U.S. Referee in Bankrupcy, was formed for the purpose of contacting those, who, though not parishioners, would like to contribute towards this New Church. The following were chosen to help Mr. Betley in this phase of the work.

John Betley, Frank Mazur, Bronislaw Prokuski, Michael Stefanik, Dr. John B. Wlodkoski, Dr. Walter Zagorski, Dr. John Macek and Stanley Dabrowski.

The Polish people of St. Hedwige Parish, mindful of their humble beginnings here in Manchester, are looking forward to the day when they will be able to worship in a new and beautiful church.

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The first Poles settled in the city of Manchester in the year 1888. A year later the number of families increased to 70. The leaders of this small Polish community, recognizing the necessity of spiritual leadership, approached the late Most Rev. Bishop Denis B. Bradley with the plea that he secure for them a Polish-speaking priest to administer to their spiritual needs.

October 4th, 1900, the newly ordained Rev. John B. Puchala arrived in Manchester from the American College of the University of Louvain to care for the Poles of Manchester. Father Puchala was assigned to the Cathedral Parish, where for two years he devoted his time and efforts to the religious well-being of his people, welding them into a solid and well-grounded religious unit.

During this time, Father Puchala was constantly on the look-out for a suitable piece of land whereon to build a church for his people. One day he heard that the First Christian Church wanted to sell their property on the corner of Pine and Merrimack Streets. Father Puchala thought that this property would be most suitable and most centrally located for the widely scattered Polish people of the city and environs. With the permission of the Bishop, Father Puchala bought the property.

The first Sunday of the month of August in the year 1902 was a happy and glorious day for the Poles of Manchester. It was on this day that the first Polish parish in the city and in the diocese was formally established at the corner of Pine and Merrimack Streets, under the patronage of Saint Hedwige.

With the approval of the late Bishop John B. Delaney, a two story brick building was erected in 1906 on the corner of Merrimack and Union Streets. Feeling the need for more classrooms, a third story was added to the school building now known as Saint Casimir's School. The Felician Sisters were entrusted with the care and teaching of the children of the parish.

A four-family house on Merrimack Street was bought by the parish and converted into a suitable dwelling to house the Sisters.

The parish took advantage of the opportunity to buy a sizeable piece of land adjoining the Sisters' Convent. This is now being used as a playground for the school children.

In 1914, Most Rev. Bishop George A. Guertin sanctioned the buying of 23 acres of land in Bedford, N. H. to be used as a burial place for the parishioners of St. Hedwige Parish. The cemetery bears the same name as that of the parish-- St. Hedwige. On October 12, 1947, Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D. dedicated the Calvary Group Monument, erected by the donations of the parishioners in memory of the fallen dead of both World War 1 and World War 11.

In 1950, the parish had acquired 26 acres of land in Bedford, N. H. for the purpose of developing it into a Youth Center for the parish. When this development is finished, it will consist of a building housing a basketball court, stage for theatrical performances, refreshment booths and a dance floor. A swimming pool, baseball and softball diamonds, football field, out-door dance floor and a beautiful picnic area with picnic tables and benches will complete this project.

The Holy Father in recognition of the long, faithful and fruitful devotion of Father Puchala, on January 18, 1951, elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. The investiture took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral in March 4, 1951, at the hands of the Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D., Bishop of Manchester.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John B. Puchala is the first and only parish priest of St. Hedwige Parish having received his appointment from the first Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester--The Most Rev. Denis B. Bradley, D.D.

Office	Name	Address	Tel.
Honorary Pres.	Msgr. John B. Puchala	319 Pine St.	3-4835
Moderator	Rev. Henry A. Ustaszewski	" " " "	" " " " "
President	Stanley Gorski	919 Wellington Rd.	3-0429
Vice Pres.	Stanley Szopa	15 MartinSt.	3-3448
2nd Vice Pres.	Helen Pieton	165 Spruce St.	2-0092
Secretary	Anthony Debski	388 Amherst St.	2-5589
Asst. Secretary	Adelle Wojnilowicz	195 Laurel St.	5-5248
" " " " "	Tillie Bykowski	221 Manchester St.	4-4845
Treasurer	Alexander Majewski	Palomino Lane Bedford, N.H.	2-3001
Sgt. at Arms	John Malik	80 Webster St.	2-5634
Bd. of Dir.	Mary Stefanik	278 Auburn St.	2-7537
	Casimir Waszeciak	313 Manchester St.	
	Jos. Hendzel	81 Beaver St.	3-2814
	James Peltak	232 Lake Ave.	2-9618
	Ann Kalinska	389 Belmont St.	3-6728
	Frank Fudala	672 Grove St.	4-4830
	Emelia Olesniewicz	429 WilsonSt.	2-3768
Auditors	Frank Dudziak	185 Grove St.	4-4738
	John Chmielewski	167 Union St.	2-6008
	Adele Wojnilowicz	195 Laurel St.	5-5248